

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
HELD AT CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2013
7:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Members Benson, Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Crain, Currie, Elliott, Kojetin, Olson, Reed, and Schwartz.

Staff in attendance: Kristin Aarsvold, Edina Park and Recreation Department Supervisor; and Ann Kattreh, Parks and Recreation Director

Others in attendance: None.

Parks and Recreation Director Kattreh introduced herself to the Committee.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. COMMUNITY COMMENT

There were no members of the general public present at the meeting.

V. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

A. John Currie

Member Currie introduced himself to the Committee and provided a brief summary of his activities within Edina.

VI. UPDATE FROM MEMBERS

A. Updated Land Survey - Cardarelle

Member Cardarelle provided the updated plans.

Ms. Aarsvold advised that the plans have been scanned and can now be forwarded to City staff to determine if the location would be suitable.

Chair Olson asked each Member to go around the table and briefly review their skills and the assistance they are contributing towards the project.

B. Minnehaha Watershed - Kojetin

Member Kojetin stated that he has met with the Watershed twice and noted that Ms. Kattreh attended the most recent meeting. He noted that City staff is reviewing the entire system at the park in conjunction with the re-evaluation of the deteriorating canoe landings.

Ms. Kattreh noted that the Veteran's Memorial project, the 55th Street and Arden project, and a few more projects were reviewed at the meeting with the Watershed.

Chair Olson questioned if the approval had been given from the Watershed, should the funding fall into place.

Ms. Kattreh stated that although the approval had not been formally given at this time, they could reach that place.

Member Kojetin explained the process of approval that is necessary in order to obtain final approval from the Watershed District.

C. Development of Plan – Elliot

Member Elliot stated that the first step in his plan will be to clarify the actual location with the City, and to determine whether the monument could be placed over the utilities. He noted that another step would be to determine what the Watershed will require as a part of this project so that he can incorporate that into the plans. He stated that once the plans are complete they would go to the City for approval and then to the Watershed for approval. He noted that the conversations with the Watershed have seemed to be more global and the Committee will need to determine what will actually be required simply for this project.

Member Kojetin confirmed that he would follow up with the Watershed and with City staff to determine if the location would be compatible over the utilities.

D. Gift-In-Kind Update – Olson

Chair Olson stated that he was thrilled to see the gift-in-kind donations.

Member Elliot provided an update on a contact that he has made through Bachman's and noted that he would continue to follow up on that item.

Member Kojetin noted that the Garden Council should also be included in those discussions, as they have agreed to maintain the plantings. He encouraged Elliot to work with Bachman's and then simply run those ideas by the Garden Council to ensure that they feel involved in the process.

Chair Olson referenced another possible gift-in-kind donation of the granite base.

Member Cardarelle noted that the Rotary has a new President and he will continue to follow up on that donation. He advised that the Rotary is interested in having Member Schwartz come to speak. He also advised of an upcoming Veteran's Luncheon and invited all available Members.

Chair Olson confirmed that Member Elliot should have a preliminary set of plans prior to the November luncheon and questioned if the Committee could possibly make a presentation at that luncheon.

Member Cardarelle believed that could be done and noted that he and Chair Olson will follow up with the Rotary.

E. Sculpture – Benson and Reed

Member Reed reported that the dimensions for the base had been determined and explained that the sculptor must determine if the sculpture would mesh with that base. He reviewed the history of the sculpture and the hiring of a sculptor out of New York. He noted that the sculptor had been paid \$3,800 to develop a maquette and an additional \$79,200 would still be due for the final sculpture. He reported that there has not been any contact in the last two years.

Ms. Aarsvold stated that she did make contact with the artist and determined that a maquette is available and has been finished. She explained that the artist believes that the fragile maquette would be damaged through shipping but he was comfortable sending pictures. She stated that there was not a signed contract for the sculpture but there was an agreement that was signed by Scott Neal and the artist for the original \$3,800 for the development of the maquette. She stated that from the Committee's point of view the lack of contract is a good thing.

Member Reed explained that the Committee was not involved in the original design interviews. He advised of a local artist contact that he has that referred him to a family run casting business in Osceola, Wisconsin. He reported that he and Member Benson traveled to the business to gather additional information, noting that the business is father/son run and the son is also a veteran. He advised that he did obtain a quote for a six-foot wide wingspan, four and one half feet tall eagle sculpture in the amount of \$46,500. He noted that this is about half the price of the original sculpture quote and advised that the work was high quality. He noted that the additional savings would be through shipping the final product, as the shipping costs from New York for this sculpture would be high. He referenced the possible copyright that had been brought up in discussion and advised that in discussions with the new sculptor it has been determined that copyrighting would not be an issue. He stated that the key in this item moving forward would simply be funding.

Member Benson advised of another contact that was determined through this process that could possibly assist in the funding of the sculpture.

Member Currie advised of three casting businesses that are semi-local, some that he has experience with. He also addressed the issue of copyright and agreed that it would be difficult to prove copyright.

Member Christiaansen noted that the original sculptor was to provide a few options that could be tweaked and that was not done. He did not believe that anyone would be broken hearted if the sculpture were to vary slightly.

Chair Olson confirmed that Member Currie would be available to assist with this item. He asked that together Members Reed, Benson, and Currie gather the additional information and provide an update on the next meeting.

Member Currie stated that in his experience during the last six months the price for bronze has ranged from \$25 to \$28 per pound.

Motion by Member Schwartz and seconded by Member Cardarelle to procure the sculpture locally.

Ayes: Benson, Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Crain, Currie, Elliott, Kojetin, Olson, Reed, and Schwartz. Motion carried.

Member Elliot recommended that the Members also negotiate for installation and transport in the cost of the sculpture.

Member Crain believed that the timing should be considered, noting that the sculpture may need to be installed prior to the final landscaping. He explained that a crane will be needed to install the sculpture and that could damage pavers and raingardens.

VII. NEXT STEPS

Chair Olson briefly reviewed the tasks for the Members during the next month.

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on October 18, 2013.

Chair Olson advised that a webpage is being created and the URL Honoredinavets.org has been reserved. He confirmed that a link to the PayPal account would be included.

VIII. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Member Cardarelle and seconded by Member Kojetin to approve the August 23, 2013 regular meeting minutes.

Ayes: Benson, Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Crain, Currie, Elliott, Kojetin, Olson, Reed, and Schwartz. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 a.m.